UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24678
19 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF EGYPT, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, PAKISTAN, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL AND TURKEY ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to our letter of 5 October 1992 (S/24620), we are addressing this letter to you as members of the Contact Group which is mandated by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to follow up the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On 15 October 1992, H.E. Dr. Haris Slajdzic, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, briefed the Contact Group on the desperate situation of his country. In the course of his briefing, Dr. Slajdzic drew attention to the fact that the decisions of the London Conference had not been implemented, that the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina continued unabated and that, because of the great disparity between the armaments available to the Serbian side and the government forces, the situation on the ground is becoming increasingly more difficult.

Dr. Slajdzic expressed his serious disappointment at the inability of the international community, despite all the efforts made, to bring about a cease-fire. He also explained that the amount of humanitarian relief being provided for the beleaguered inhabitants of his country was much below what was required as a minimum level for subsistence. Against this background, the Foreign Minister expressed his fears that in the coming winter months, hundreds of thousands of his compatriots were doomed to perish. Dr. Slajdzic also reminded the Contact Group that his Government was not asking for ground forces to enforce the peace, but that it was not right to prevent his country from defending itself against foreign aggression through the blanket enforcement of the ban on the delivery of arms provided for in Security Council resolution 713 (1991).

The members of the Contact Group feel very strongly that Bosnia and Herzegovina should not be denied its inherent right to defend itself in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Contact Group supports the peace process that got under way at the London Conference and hopes that its decisions will be rapidly and fully implemented. The

Contact Group is convinced that the brazen violation of the decisions of the London Conference will continue as long as the Serbian side is able to impose its will by the use of force. While these circumstances prevail, the Serbian side has no incentive or reason to negotiate. If the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina had more adequate means to repel aggression the likelihood of achieving a peaceful and just solution through negotiations would be greatly enhanced.

It is in the light of these considerations that the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference is calling for an immediate meeting of the Security Council to consider and secure the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia and Herzegovina. In view of the violation by the Serbian side of the provisions of Security Council resolution 781 (1992) establishing a "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Security Council should also consider the steps that need to be taken to secure the effective enforcement of this resolution.

We would be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nabil A. ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Egypt

(Signed) Jamsheed K. MARKER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Pakistan

(Signed) Keba Birane CISSE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Senegal

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

(Signed) Mustafa M. H. KAWTHAR
Chargé d'affaires
Permanent Mission of
Saudi Arabia

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Turkey